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**SENATE BILL 5308**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Hansen, Hasegawa, Krishnadasan, Lias, Nobles, Slatter, Trudeau, and Valdez

Read first time 01/16/25. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to making higher education more accessible by  
2 establishing the Washington guaranteed admissions program and  
3 requiring student notifications; adding a new section to chapter  
4 28B.10 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28A.150 RCW; and creating  
5 a new section.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that engaging with  
8 high school students to prepare them for higher education and  
9 familiarize them with college admissions through guaranteed  
10 admissions increases equity, access, and credential completion in the  
11 state. The legislature intends to establish the Washington guaranteed  
12 admissions program as an appropriate and necessary step to accomplish  
13 these goals.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The Washington guaranteed admissions program is established.

17 (2)(a) The regional universities, the state college, at least one  
18 campus of each state university, and tribal institutions of higher  
19 education operated by an Indian tribe as defined in RCW 43.376.010

1 shall participate in the Washington guaranteed admissions program  
2 beginning in the 2026-27 academic year.

3 (b) Institutions in (a) of this subsection may opt out of the  
4 Washington guaranteed admissions program by reporting to the  
5 legislature, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, the following:

6 (i) The reason for opting out; and

7 (ii) A detailed overview of other initiatives for improving  
8 admissions and expanding access to the institution for resident  
9 students.

10 (3) Beginning with the 2026-27 academic year, participating  
11 institutions shall simplify and streamline the general admissions  
12 application form requiring only necessary information for students.

13 (4) Beginning with the 2026-27 academic year, an organization  
14 representing the presidents of the public four-year institutions of  
15 higher education shall consult with the student achievement council  
16 and the state board for community and technical colleges in  
17 determining eligibility criteria for the Washington guaranteed  
18 admissions program and annually reviewing the eligibility criteria.

19 (5) Beginning with the 2026-27 academic year, the Washington  
20 school information processing cooperative shall collect and transmit  
21 the data of students in grades 11 and 12 who meet the criteria  
22 determined in subsection (4) of this section to an organization  
23 representing the presidents of the public four-year institutions of  
24 higher education, which shall hold and make the information available  
25 to participating institutions for the purpose of guaranteeing  
26 admission to qualified applicants in accordance with this section.

27 (6) By December 10, 2027, and each year thereafter until December  
28 31, 2032, an organization representing the presidents of the public  
29 four-year institutions of higher education shall submit a report on  
30 the Washington guaranteed admissions program to the appropriate  
31 committees of the legislature in accordance with RCW 43.01.036. The  
32 report must include the following information from the prior academic  
33 year:

34 (a) Eligibility criteria and changes made to the Washington  
35 guaranteed admissions program;

36 (b) The number of students offered admission by each  
37 participating institution disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender,  
38 Title I status of the high school attended, and economic status;

39 (c) The postsecondary enrollment rates of students offered  
40 guaranteed admissions by each participating institution disaggregated

1 by race, ethnicity, gender, Title I status of the high school  
2 attended, and economic status;

3 (d) The postsecondary application and enrollment rates of  
4 students who are offered guaranteed admissions within 0.2 grade point  
5 average of the eligibility cutoff disaggregated by institution, race,  
6 ethnicity, gender, Title I status of the high school attended, and  
7 economic status; and

8 (e) The postsecondary application and enrollment rates of  
9 students who are not offered guaranteed admissions because their  
10 grade point average is below the eligibility cutoff by 0.2 grade  
11 point average or less, disaggregated by institution, race, ethnicity,  
12 gender, Title I status of the high school attended, and economic  
13 status.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) By January 1, 2026, each school district, charter school,  
17 state-tribal education compact school, and institutional education  
18 provider with students in grade 11 or 12 shall enter into a data-  
19 sharing agreement with each participating institution in the  
20 Washington guaranteed admissions program established in section 2 of  
21 this act or the Washington school information processing cooperative  
22 to facilitate the transfer of data of students in grades 11 and 12  
23 who meet the criteria determined pursuant to section 2(4) of this  
24 act. Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, school districts,  
25 charter schools, state-tribal education compact schools, and  
26 institutional education providers shall work with the Washington  
27 school information processing cooperative and participating  
28 institutions through an organization representing the presidents of  
29 the public four-year institutions of higher education to facilitate  
30 the transfer of data required under this subsection.

31 (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
32 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

33 (a) "Charter school" means a school established under chapter  
34 28A.710 RCW.

35 (b) "Institutional education provider" has the same meaning as in  
36 RCW 28A.190.005.

37 (c) "Participating institutions" are those that have not opted  
38 out of the program and includes the regional universities, the state  
39 college, at least one campus of each state university, and tribal

1 institutions of higher education operated by an Indian tribe as  
2 defined in RCW 43.376.010.

3 (d) "State-tribal education compact school" means a school  
4 subject to chapter 28A.715 RCW.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The student achievement council shall collaborate with the  
8 office of the superintendent of public instruction, an organization  
9 representing the presidents of the public four-year institutions of  
10 higher education, the state board for community and technical  
11 colleges, educational service districts, the Washington school  
12 information processing cooperative, and the Washington school  
13 counselor association to create a notice providing information about  
14 the following programs or initiatives, including definitions and  
15 eligibility criteria:

16 (a) The Washington guaranteed admissions program established in  
17 section 2 of this act;

18 (b) The Washington college grant program created in RCW  
19 28B.92.200;

20 (c) Dual credit programs as defined in RCW 28A.600.280;

21 (d) Career and technical education programs;

22 (e) Associate degrees and certificates;

23 (f) The free application for federal student aid; and

24 (g) The Washington application for state financial aid.

25 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
26 work with the student achievement council to disseminate the notice  
27 created in subsection (1) of this section to each school district,  
28 charter school, state-tribal education compact school, and  
29 institutional education provider with students in grades nine through  
30 12.

31 (3)(a) Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, each school  
32 district, charter school, state-tribal education compact school, and  
33 institutional education provider with students in grades nine through  
34 12 shall:

35 (i) Disseminate the notice created in subsection (1) of this  
36 section to students in grades nine through 12 and their parents or  
37 guardians at the beginning of the school year, but no later than  
38 November of each school year. The notice may be disseminated  
39 electronically; and

1 (ii) Designate a staff member or create a virtual resource for  
2 students to learn more about the information contained in the notice  
3 created in subsection (1) of this section.

4 (b) Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, each school district,  
5 charter school, state-tribal education compact school, and  
6 institutional education provider with students in grade 11 or 12  
7 shall:

8 (i) Collaborate with the Washington school information processing  
9 cooperative and participating public four-year institutions of higher  
10 education through an organization representing the presidents of the  
11 public four-year institutions of higher education to create a  
12 notification about the Washington guaranteed admissions program  
13 established in section 2 of this act and general admissions. The  
14 notification must provide a parent or guardian of a student in grades  
15 nine through 12 with an opportunity to opt the student out of the  
16 Washington guaranteed admissions program; and

17 (ii) Disseminate the notice created in (b)(i) of this subsection  
18 to students in grades 11 and 12 and their parents or guardians.

19 (4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
20 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

21 (a) "Charter school" means a school established under chapter  
22 28A.710 RCW.

23 (b) "Institutional education provider" has the same meaning as in  
24 RCW 28A.190.005.

25 (c) "State-tribal education compact school" means a school  
26 subject to chapter 28A.715 RCW.

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